

Fair tonight; northeast winds.

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OIL-FLOODED CANAL IS MASS OF FLAMES

Pipe Line Bursts, Spreading Fluid Over Old James Creek—Catches Fire.

SHEET OF FIRE ROSE HIGH UP INTO AIR

Entire Vicinity Enveloped in Dense Smoke—Different Versions of Cause.

Converted into a lake of oil by the bursting of a large pipe line, the old James Creek Canal, which is now used as a District dump, caught fire this morning, and for a time the flames threatened to spread to the southeast gas works and the distributing plant of the Standard Oil Company at Half and K streets southeast.

With flames shooting into the air to the height of 150 feet, the entire southeast and southwest sections of the city in the vicinity of the canal were enveloped in a dense, black smoke.

The bursting of the pipes was caused, it is said, by the weight of the dirt and rubbish that is being dumped into the canal. The line extends from the large tank at Half and I streets southeast, where the oil is transferred from the river barges to the central distributing plant at Half and K streets southwest.

Large quantities of gasoline and kerosene are stored in big tanks at the distributing plant, which is directly across the street from the gas works.

How Oil Leak Came.

According to employees of the Standard Oil Company in this city, the flooding of the abandoned canal with oil was due to an overflow from an abandoned pipe line, which has not been in use for three months. It was admitted, however, that a break occurred in the new pipe line yesterday, and workmen were employed in fixing it when the fire started this morning.

The fire was discovered shortly after 10 o'clock, and it is believed it was started by some boys who had built a bonfire on the canal bank. A fireman discovered the fire and an alarm was sent in from the private box at the oil plant. Before the engines arrived the canal for a distance of half a block was on fire, and a minute later great tongues of flame began shooting into the air.

The dense smoke made it difficult for the firemen to work, and water had no apparent effect on the blaze. The firemen finally resorted to picks and shovels and began throwing dirt on the blazing fuel. The water, however, had little more effect than the water, for the oil, which seemed to be flowing steadily, rose to the surface faster than the men could throw on dirt.

Kept Under Control.

Fearing that the flames would spread to the oil tanks and the big gas tank, the firemen confined their efforts to keeping the flames in the canal. The valves at the main oil tank were closed, but the ground was so saturated with the oil that the fire was still burning this afternoon.

About 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon it was discovered that there was a serious break in the new pipe line at the place where the water was being pumped. It is believed the leak occurred several days ago, and several thousand barrels of oil ran out. It is also said that a large quantity of oil was emitted into the canal from the old pipe line.

No. 15 and No. 4 Engine Companies responded to the first alarm. Chief Belt and Fire Marshal Nicholson arrived a few minutes later, and when it was found that the water was not quenching the blaze, it was decided not to send in any more alarms. At first it was feared that the heat would cause an explosion in the gas tank, but the firemen succeeded in confining the fire to the canal.

THREE EARTHQUAKES ARE FELT IN MANILA

City Slightly Shaken, But No Damage Is Reported Up to Date.

MANILA, Oct. 20.—Manila was slightly shaken today by three earthquakes. The first shock was felt at 10:30 a. m., the second at 1:40, and the third at 3:10. No damage has yet been reported.

THIEVES EAT LUNCH.

SOUTH ORANGE, N. J., Oct. 20.—Thieves broke into the home of Thomas Sealy at 224 Center street and got away with \$700 worth of silverware and wearing apparel. Before leaving they entered the pantry and ate heartily. Two years ago the Sealy residence was robbed of \$300 worth of jewelry.

WEATHER REPORT.

Fair weather is indicated for the next thirty-six hours in the Middle Eastern and Southern States, with slight changes in temperature.

The winds along the Middle and South Atlantic coasts will be fresh northeasterly, and on the Gulf coast fresh east to southeast.

Steamers departing today for European ports will have fresh to strong northeasterly winds and fair weather to the Grand Banks.

FORECAST FOR DISTRICT.

For the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, Fair to night and Wednesday; fresh northeasterly winds.

SUN TABLE.

Sun rises..... 6:34

Sun sets..... 6:17

TIDE TABLE.

High tide today..... 4:13 a. m., 4:42 p. m.

Low tide today..... 10:38 a. m., 11:22 p. m.

High tide tomorrow..... 5:35 a. m., 6:27 p. m.

Low tide tomorrow..... 11:42 a. m., 12:12 p. m.

TEMPERATURE.

8:00 a. m..... 54

9:00 a. m..... 54

10:00 a. m..... 55

11:00 a. m..... 56

Noon..... 57

2 p. m..... 57

MIKADO HIMSELF HONORS VISITORS

Unusual Proofs of Friendship Are Given by the Ruler of Japan.

CORDIAL REPLY TO ROOSEVELT

Expressions of Good Will Exchanged Between Chiefs of the Two Nations.

Cable advices from Rear Admiral Sperry, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet now visiting Japan, conveyed the information that the Emperor paid the visiting Americans an unusual honor by attending the luncheon given to the American officers.

As a further evidence of his friendliness for the United States the Emperor violated another custom by commanding Admiral Sperry to convey to President Roosevelt a message of good will and an assurance that it is his desire to cement the perfect accord between the two countries. The Emperor's message was in response to one from President Roosevelt.

From President to Emperor.

The President's message follows:

"Admiral Sperry, Yokohama: 'Flagship Connecticut, Yokohama: 'Convey to his majesty, the Emperor of Japan, my best wishes for his continued good health and happiness, and that of all his inhabitants. His majesty's message to me was a most cordial and friendly one, and I am sure it will express to his majesty, the emperor, my earnest wish for the strengthening and the continuance of the cordial relations which have always existed between the two countries.'

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Reply From Admiral Sperry.

The reply of Admiral Sperry follows:

"Tokyo, Oct. 20. 'Secretary of the Navy, Washington (for the President). 'I read the President's telegram to the Emperor at an audience this morning. His majesty's reply was as follows: 'Admiral Sperry, it affords me especial pleasure to welcome you as representative of the American navy and to receive through you from your respected President his very friendly message. 'I request you to assure the President that I most sincerely appreciate his sentiments of friendship and good will. It is a source of profound satisfaction to me that the most cordial relations of regard and good correspondence exist between Japan and the United States, and I thank you for the part you are affording me subjects, by your visit, an opportunity to give new proof of their sincere attachment for your countrymen. 'I also wish you to convey to the President this message of good understanding and genuine friendship with the United States I count as a valued privilege of my reign, and it shall be in the future, as it has been in the past, my constant aim and desire to weld the ties of amity which unite the two nations into indissoluble bonds of good neighborhood and perfect accord. 'I trust that the same success which has so far attended your voyage may still be with you to the end. 'Immediately after the audience, the Emperor, in person with the Emperor, gave a luncheon to our ambassador, the flag officers and captains of the fleet, all the ministers of state, and the most distinguished officers of the Japanese army and navy. The presence of the Emperor was most impressive and marked honor. The reception to the officers and men most cordial, generous, successful, and satisfactory in every way. SPERRY."

Americans Overwhelmed By Splendid Reception

TOKYO, Oct. 20.—After a day of brilliant social affairs, Admiral Sperry and his flag officers are resting in Shiba Park, firmly convinced that no nation can outdo Japan in the heartiness of a welcome extended to the representatives of a foreign government. The chief event of the day was the audience which the Emperor gave to the American officers and men.

(Continued on Second Page.)

Maryland and West Virginia Give Taft a Warm Reception

By JAMES HAY, JR.

CUMBERLAND, Md., Oct. 20.—William Howard Taft spoke in Maryland and West Virginia today, and at Martinsburg, W. Va. He declared that West Virginia is as surely Republican as Pennsylvania.

When he reached here he was taken in an automobile to the opera house, which was crowded. Before entering the building he had to make a short speech for the benefit of the thousands who could not get in. In this place, as in other places, he was given an ovation, which showed that Maryland is full of Republicans.

The candidate got into Martinsburg an hour late, because of a hot box on the tender of the engine, and he was late arriving here. His speech at Martinsburg was short, and dealt with the prosperity issue and the unfitness of Bryan to conduct the affairs and policies of the Government.

While there are some political prophets who put Maryland in the doubtful column, there is no doubt on the Taft train that the State will be Republican by a majority ranging from 20,000 to 15,000. The State leaders tell Judge Taft that he is sure of carrying Maryland.

(Continued on Second Page.)

TALKS OF GOSSIPING SAMUEL GOMPERS

National Labor Tribune Declares Federation President Is No Labor Leader.

POLITICS HIS FINISH, SAYS THE EDITOR

Publication Insists Usefulness of Man Who Is Working for Bryan Is Ended.

"Mr. Gompers is no longer a trades union leader. He is simply a Democratic party politician, and has ended his usefulness to the union cause."

These two brief sentences are, with many others of a similar vein, contained in a long editorial, printed in the National Labor Tribune, one of the most powerful and influential labor papers in the United States.

The editorial is one of the most scathing criticisms of President Gompers, that has been printed, and it comes from the labor journal of the Miners and Steel Workers of Pennsylvania. For weeks, the American Federation of Labor, by direction of President Gompers, has made every effort to swing the miner's vote solidly into the Democratic column. More attention has been paid to the miners than to any other organization, and for several weeks, hundreds of special organizers for the American Federation have been in the mine fields trying to turn the vote of the wage-earners of the mines and the iron and steel industries.

Is Opposed to Bryan.

The National Labor Tribune is openly anti-Bryan, and has denounced parading politics. The Tribune's circulation is confined to the mine field, and the factories of Pittsburgh, where President Gompers is directing his heavy artillery.

"There are labor leaders and labor leaders. Some of them seem to think that they are being paid their salaries for political services. Others are attending strictly to the proper business of their organizations, and it is our experience that any one of them can find plenty to employ all his time in the latter capacity. As a rule, the leader who pays the least attention to politics is the one whose organization is in the best condition to take care of the wage and other interests of its members. If there are any exceptions to this rule, none of them has come to our attention."

"Thomas L. Lewis, national president of the United Mine Workers of America, offers the union labor of the country a refreshing contrast with Samuel Gompers. Mr. Gompers is no longer a trades union leader. He is simply a Democratic party politician, and has ended his usefulness to the union cause."

Should Get Reward.

"If his candidate, Mr. Bryan, wins, he will not doubt reward Mr. Gompers with a fat berth for his endeavors to lead the American Federation of Labor into the Democratic camp. On the other hand, if Mr. Bryan loses, Mr. Gompers' next big fight will be to save his own bacon. His partisan activity has so weakened his prestige, and his power for good that for the first time in years, there may be a serious movement at the federation's annual convention to elect some other man president. If Mr. Lewis cannot be induced to accept the post, the anti-Gompers element in the organization ought to secure as a candidate some man of his type."

"Mr. Lewis shows his superior caliber by sending out to the United Mine Workers a circular that Mr. Gompers cannot be induced to accept the post, in spite of his political party or candidate, although it is generally understood that personally Mr. Lewis is strongly in favor of the elected chief. It is the personal preferences religiously in the background, however, while he is speaking in his official capacity, that is what Samuel Gompers would have done had he been as wise as Mr. Lewis."

Luck May Save It.

"If the Federation of Labor is not hopelessly disorganized by Mr. Gompers' leadership, it will be sheer good luck and by no means good management and judgment. The notice that Mr. Lewis serves that the United Mine Workers are not a partisan organization shows how little success Mr. Gompers is having in his campaign. Bryan is not a trades union leader, and the United Mine Workers are by far the largest and most powerful organization in the federation."

Must Have More Money

Commissioner Macfarland said that he expects the volunteer committee to come to the same conclusions as did the school house commission, which reported to Congress in February. He maintains that Congress must give more money to the school house commission, and that the school house commission should be kept in proper shape. Commissioner Morrow, in that report of the school house commission, says that Congress will not be induced to grant any large appropriation, but that the school house commission must give more money to the school house commission, and that the school house commission should be kept in proper shape.

Will Write on Political Subjects.

It is positive President Roosevelt will become associated with Dr. Lyman Abbott in the publication of the Outlook. While the White House continued to withhold the plans of the President, negotiations nevertheless were made some time ago. Elbert F. Baldwin, managing editor of the Outlook, called on President Roosevelt this morning. But he declined to discuss the nature of his visit.

The President practically decided upon this step while at his home at Oyster Bay this summer. Dr. Abbott and his son, Lawrence Abbott, visited Sagamore Hill several times, and they have had considerable correspondence with the President since his return to Washington.

It had been the intention of the President to keep the matter a secret until after his African hunting trip, full accounts of which he has contracted to write for Charles Scribner's Sons.

Business Interests Call Halt On Shell Game of Hackmen

Extort of money from visitors to Washington, imposed in the form of excessive cab and taxicab hire, express charges, lodging rates, etc., has reached such a point as to arouse the local Chamber of Commerce into action. It will take steps at once toward remedying the evil.

The executive committee will endeavor, first, to have the legal schedule of rates posted in all cabs and also in the taxicabs. Enforcement of existing laws would accomplish this. Notice is to be appended to the schedules to the effect that if any person who believes he or she has been overcharged will write the details of the case to the Chamber, the latter body will prosecute the case and pay the expenses.

(Continued on Second Page.)

WILL INSPECT WASHINGTON SCHOOLS



APPLETON P. CLARK, Chairman. Appointed by Commissioner Morrow to Examine School Buildings.

CONGRESS BLAMED BY MR. MACFARLAND

Commissioner Declares Condition of Schools Is Not Up to Local Officials.

Although Commissioner Morrow this morning appointed the two remaining members of the volunteer committee which it has been decided will investigate and report upon the condition of the school buildings of the District, the middle in regard to these conditions, instead of clearing, continued to grow more dense.

Out of all the various cross purposes and statements, stands the one fact, apparently and certainly undeniable, that many of the school buildings are in need of repairs. Both Commissioner Morrow and Captain Oyster, president of the Board of Education, and Commissioner Macfarland admitted this and said further that they have never questioned such an assertion.

Commissioner Macfarland in a statement to a Times reporter said in a mild way that Congress is at fault in that the schools of the District are not in fit condition for use. Commissioner Morrow in a statement issued later in the day, practically confirms that. So far the two Commissioners agree.

ALL WANT INQUIRY.

Both of the Commissioners and Captain Oyster agree that there should be an investigation of the present school building conditions. Captain Oyster at present conducting one himself, and said this morning that at the proper time he will make public the result.

The Commissioners issued one more statement, in which they say that on October 14 they resolved to constitute two committees of District officials, which will inspect all new buildings and all existing buildings, and make a report on the condition of the buildings. The statement is brought in question. The completion of any new school building or when a question arises as to the structural conditions or conditions concerning safety from fire in any school building, it is recommended that the first named committee, consisting of the Assistant Engineer Commissioner, Capt. William Kelly, the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, and the Inspector of Buildings to make a thorough examination of the building and report their conclusions to the Commissioners.

The other committee, consisting of the Assistant to the Engineer Commissioner, in charge of the Building Department, the Inspector of Buildings, and the Health Officer, is to investigate questions regarding sanitation in school buildings.

Must Have More Money

Commissioner Macfarland said that he expects the volunteer committee to come to the same conclusions as did the school house commission, which reported to Congress in February. He maintains that Congress must give more money to the school house commission, and that the school house commission should be kept in proper shape. Commissioner Morrow, in that report of the school house commission, says that Congress will not be induced to grant any large appropriation, but that the school house commission must give more money to the school house commission, and that the school house commission should be kept in proper shape.

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(Continued on Second Page.)

CRUISER ESCORT ORDERED FOR DUKE

Action Construed as Virtual Announcement of Elkins-Abruzzi Engagement.

ROME, Oct. 20.—The ministry of marine today ordered the Italian cruiser Piromosca, now at New York, and the Etruria, in South African waters, to act as an escort for the Duke of the Abruzzi when he sails for America, after his marriage to Miss Katherine Elkins.

The action virtually amounts to an official announcement of the engagement of the Duke and Miss Elkins, though until King Emmanuel communicates the engagement to Prime Minister Giolitti, the matter will still be officially considered "in abeyance."

It was announced today that the duke and his bride will sail for Italy on the cruiser Europa, which will be fitted out in royal fashion.

The duke will sail for America early next month and it is understood the marriage will take place at the Elkins home in West Virginia, early in December.

CERTAIN PRESIDENT WILL BE AN EDITOR

Closed Deal With Outlook and Will Write on Political Subjects.

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TEXANS WANT DOWE TAKEN FROM OFFICE

Citizens Declare Collector of Customs Is Addicted to Quarreling.

President Roosevelt has referred to Secretary Cortelyou for investigation serious charges which have been made against Robert W. Dowe, collector of customs at Eagle Pass, Tex.

These charges were handed to the President by Morris Shepard, representing a committee of citizens who demand the removal of the Federal official. Secretary Cortelyou said at the White House today that the investigation had not been completed and that until it had, no statement regarding the case would be made.

In the list of charges, which are made by some of the most prominent citizens of Texas, it is alleged that Dowe is incapable of performing his duties; that he is an offensive partisan, and is himself and permits his subordinates to be personally active in politics; that his subordinates take up and foster his personal and political quarrels; that he slandered and impugned two of the noblest women of the State, and when called to account by their husbands, signed a retraction and stated to these gentlemen that he would make the statements attributed to him in the future.

It is further charged that Dowe "acted as the secret agent of the Mexican government in its recent troubles along the Rio Grande and that he would accept compensation for that government for his services rendered."

Among those who support these charges are Albert L. Meyer, general commanding the military department of Texas; Eugene Toite, United States marshal of the western district of Texas; Luther B. Ellsworth, United States consul at C. Porfirio Diaz, Mexico; F. V. Hesse, president of the First National Bank of Eagle Pass, Tex.

The communication to the President is brought to a close with the following appeal: "We feel that our community is entitled to some consideration in this matter, and that we should not be compelled to live in a turmoil of strife and kept alive by a Federal officer of high rank, nor can we conceive that the Government would tolerate Mr. Dowe in this high office if the proper investigation of his character and standing were made."

"We therefore urge a full and complete investigation of these charges. The capriciousness of these charges should be made by some man of strong individuality who would go to the bottom of the charges—preferably a Secret Service man."

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(Continued on Second Page.)

WOMAN ONCE RICH STARVING IN ALLEY

Mrs. Rebecca E. Mitchell Found Helpless in Suburban District.

GIVES HER MONEY TO SETTLE DEBTS

Private Fortune Spent on Accounts of Unfortunate Husband.

Sergeant Murphy, swinging his night stick, walked through the streets of Brightwood, at midnight, whistling. "It's sure one good right," he muttered, "and every one is due to be happy a night like this."

From down an alley, behind a pile of refuse, the policeman heard a wailing moan.

"Think of anyone being soused a night like this," exclaimed the policeman. "He's due for a good canning from me—such a drunkard as he is!"

Having his stick, the policeman, shouted: "Come you, get out of this!"

"Help! I'm starving," Sergeant Murphy heard a voice speaking from a heap of ashes.

Found a Woman.

Striking a match he found the huddled form of a woman. Gently the big policeman raised the slight figure in his arms and marched away to the police station, carrying the wasted form of Mrs. Rebecca E. Mitchell, and disclosing a story of want and privation—the story of a woman who once possessed riches and position.

Her husband was once a well-known merchant in Washington. One day his firm failed and he, the head of the house, died a few months later, leaving his widow, Mrs. Mitchell, thousands of dollars in debt.

Mrs. Mitchell had a goodly fortune in her own name, but she declared she would pay all the creditors of her husband and before she used any of the money for her own benefit, and this she did, until she had but \$1,200 left, which she turned over to a sister living in Virginia. Then Mrs. Mitchell sought a position. She was a student of Italian, and French and twenty-three years ago entered the Patent Office, taking up the work of translating French and Italian patent claims.

Her Voice Was Gone.

The Government abolished the position a number of years ago, and Mrs. Mitchell, with an invalid daughter to support, tried to secure another position. Once she had been an accomplished musician, but the charm of her voice was gone. Forced by want, she had to secure a position as a stenographer in the Patent Office, but age was creeping on and she had to make way for younger women.

Mrs. Mitchell is the daughter of Dr. Richard S. Nathan, the second president of Hobart College, New York State, who died in 1890. She was born in Washington. I have gone in the best of social circles, and I will never enter an institution where I am not wanted by my friends. "All I want is a chance to work."

Wandered About Streets.

The friends lost track of the woman, and for the last ten days she has been wandering the city's streets seeking work, until she felt exhausted in Brightwood, and crawled under a pile of refuse, where she thought she could die.

The police turned Mrs. Mitchell over to friends. Her condition is said to be such that she needs a nurse. She was found last Wednesday night.

It is said Mrs. Mitchell has a sister living in the city, and that she has been attempting to find her and learn if any of the \$1,200 turned over to her sister has been used. It is said her sister has sent but \$25 during the past year for the support of Mrs. Mitchell.

FIRE THREATENING TO DESTROY NEWARK

Trunk Factory Doomed and Manufacturing Center in Imminent Danger.

NEW YORK, Oct. 20.—Newark's manufacturing center is threatened with destruction today by a blaze which has already doomed the big plant of the L. Goldsmith & Son's trunk factory and, fed by a stiff north wind, is spreading to nearby buildings.

The whole fire department of the city is engaged in an endeavor to confine the blaze to the trunk factory, in which it originated, to extinguish incipient fires, which are continually breaking out within a distance of three blocks, and to trench the roof of the buildings upon which blazing brands from the main fire are continually falling.

THAW NEED NOT GO TO PITTSBURG TRIAL

Habeas Corpus Petition Denied by Federal Judge in Smoky City.

PITTSBURG, Oct. 20.—United States Judge James S. Young has ordered the dismissal of the habeas corpus petition requiring the presence of Harry K. Thaw in Pittsburgh to testify in his bankruptcy proceedings.

Neither Captain Hains nor his brother entered pleas today. In the meantime Secretary Grant will secure all possible data relating to rates for passenger and baggage transportation about the city, and will report these at the next meeting of the committee.

NO PLEAS ENTERED BY HAINS BROTHERS

NEW YORK, Oct. 20.—Capt. Peter Conover Hains and his brother, T. Jenkins Hains, each indicted for murder in the first degree for the killing of William E. Annis, were arraigned to plead before Justice Garrison in the supreme court at Flushing today.